

Amendments to the Claims

These claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A device (1) for controlling the sound levels of a group of audio channels comprising a main channel (MC) and at least one auxiliary channel (AC1) which can be rendered simultaneously, the device comprising:

[[-]] user controlled selection means (14, 16) for selecting the main channel, and

[[-]] automatic level adjustment means (12, 13) for adjusting the sound level of the at least one auxiliary channel relative to the main channel.

2. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the selection means (14, 16) are arranged for selecting successive available channels in response to user input (Sel).

3. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein the level adjustment means (12, 13) are arranged for providing pre-set relative sound levels.

4. (original) The device according to claim 3, further arranged for altering the pre-set relative sound levels by the user.

5. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the level adjustment means (12, 13) are arranged for adapting the respective sound levels to the content of each associated audio channel (AC1, AC2).

6. (original) The device according to claim 5, further arranged for adapting the respective sound levels to user preferences regarding the content.

7. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the level adjustment means (12, 13) are arranged for adapting the respective sound levels to the signal characteristics of each associated audio channel (AC1, AC2).

8. (original) The device according to claim 7, wherein the level adjustment means (12, 13) are arranged for speech detection.

9. (original) The device according to claim 8, wherein the level adjustment means (12, 13) are further arranged for speech analysis.

10. (currently amended) The device according to ~~claims 5 and 7~~claim 5, wherein the level adjustment means (12, 13) are arranged for temporarily adjusting the sound level of a channel (MC, AC1, AC2) in response to the content and/or signal characteristics of at least one channel (MC; AC1).

11. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the level adjustment means (12, 13) are arranged for gradually adjusting the sound level.

12. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the level adjustment means (12, 13) are arranged for clipping, compressing and/or filtering audio signals contained in the channels.

13. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the main channel (MC) and the at least one auxiliary channel (AC1) are rendered by different transducers (2, 3, 4).

14. (original) The device of claim 13, further provided with transducer selecting means for selecting a transducer (2, 3, 4) which renders the main channel (MC) and/or the at least one auxiliary channel (AC1, AC2).

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A remote control unit (6) for use with the device ~~according to claim 1~~ for controlling the sound levels of a group of audio channels having a main channel (MC) and at least one auxiliary channel (AC1) which can be rendered simultaneously, the device including user controlled selection means (14, 16) for selecting the main channel, and automatic level adjustment means (12, 13) for adjusting the sound level of the at least one auxiliary channel relative to the main channel, the remote control unit comprising selection interface components (62, 63), ~~such as buttons,~~ for selecting the main channel (MC).

17. (currently amended) The remote control unit according to claim 16, further comprising a first sound level interface component (61), ~~such as a toggle stick,~~ for setting a ratio of sound levels of rendered channels (MC, AC1, AC2).

18. (currently amended) The remote control unit according to claim 16 ~~or 17~~, further comprising second sound level interface components (64, 65), ~~such as knobs,~~ for manually adjusting the sound levels of rendered channels (MC, AC1, AC2).

19. (currently amended) ~~An audio system comprising a~~ The device
(1) according to claim 1, wherein said device is included in at
least one of an audio system, a home entertainment system, and a
television system.

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) The system according to claim 19, ~~20 or~~
~~21~~, wherein the main channel (MC) is rendered by a transducer (AC1)
which is located centrally relative to the system.

23. (currently amended) A method of controlling the sound levels
of a group of audio channels ~~comprising~~ having a main channel (MC)
and at least one auxiliary channel (AC1) which can be rendered
simultaneously, the method ~~comprising the steps of:~~

[[-]] selecting, under user control, the main channel, and
[[-]] automatically adjusting the sound level of the at least
one auxiliary channel (AC1) relative to the main channel.

24. (original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the sound level of the at least one auxiliary channel (AC1; AC2) is set using a plurality of pre-set relative sound levels.

25. (original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the respective sound levels of the at least one auxiliary channel (AC1; AC2) are adapted to the content of each associated audio channel.

26. (original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the respective sound levels of the at least one auxiliary channel (AC1; AC2) are adapted to the signal characteristics of each associated audio channel.

27. (currently amended) The method according to claim 25~~or 26~~, wherein speech detection is used.

28. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein at least one of formant detection, prosody detection and~~or~~ keyword detection is used.

29. (canceled)